

creating FCIP does not permit a juvenile court to commit a child to the state's custody as unruly without DCS staff *certifying* that FCIP cannot meet the child and family's needs, and that further intervention is necessary. This *certification* is issued when a family is unwilling to participate in the services provided or when the services are not successful in changing the child's behavior.

The program is designed to work with a child and family who are in an active state of crisis and referred for voluntary assistance by the juvenile court (judge or staff) or directly to the DCS Child Protective Services intake unit. The program relies on crisis intervention techniques and helps families resolve their issues with the child. Services are short term, typically 30 days or less. The program has been developed with enough flexibility to fill the individual needs of each county and community. Staff are afforded the time as well as given the legal and Departmental mandate to pursue local development of services. This includes working with the local school systems, courts, and other social services agencies as well as developing informal and nontraditional resources.

In FY98-99, 6,842 FCIP applications were received and accepted. FCIP had a statewide success rate of 94% in preventing the breakup of families and the placement of children

Susan was a 17-year-old high school senior who was truant from school and disobedient. The main problem was that her father, a single parent, and her boyfriend, a 20-year-old, were at each other's throats. The father was threatening to kill or beat up the boyfriend. He wanted Susan to stay away from the boyfriend, and she absolutely refused. It was a war zone in the home, and her father wanted to "give her to the state". Susan was threatening to run off to get married and actually had set a date. The case manager was able to convince the father, Susan, and the boyfriend to sit down together to discuss solutions. Susan's father and the boyfriend had never met prior to this. After a few tense meetings to work on the resolution plan, the father and boyfriend discovered that they had some things in common. A plan was developed; the boyfriend was given a role in making sure that Susan stayed in school until graduation. Susan and her boyfriend agreed to postpone getting married until graduation. The boyfriend agreed to be responsible for making sure that Susan completed her homework and was home by curfew. Susan stayed in school; there were no more reports from her father. Susan graduated from high school and has been married for 2 years.

into state custody. Figure 1 shows the large decrease in unruly children entering custody since the beginning of the FCIP program. Additionally, Figure 1 shows that the number of children coming into care decreased for all age groups.